

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the indicated allowance of claims 7-9, 24, 26, 29 and 32; and for the indication that claims 2, 3, 11, 18 and 23 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. See page 8 of the Office Action mailed July 25, 2008. By the present amendments, Applicants have incorporated the subject matter of claims 2 and 11, respectively, into claims 1 and 10; and, correspondingly, Applicants have cancelled claims 2 and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer, and have amended dependency of claim 3 to be dependent on claim 1. In addition, Applicants have set forth the subject matter of claims 18 and 23 in independent form, incorporating the subject matter of claim 1 into each of claims 18 and 23.

Initially, it is respectfully requested that the present amendments be entered. In this regard, it is respectfully submitted that the present amendments materially limit issues remaining in connection with the above-identified application, with all independent claims now in the application having been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Noting that all independent claims in the application should now be allowable, it is respectfully submitted that the present amendments clearly materially limit any issues remaining in connection with the above-identified application; and, as shown in the following, it is respectfully submitted that the present amendments present all remaining claims in allowable condition. Noting incorporation of previously considered, allowable subject matter into the independent claims, it is respectfully submitted that the present amendments do not raise any new issues, including any issue of new matter. Noting indication of allowable subject matter in the Office Action mailed July 25, 2008, subsequent to arguments made as

to patentability in the Amendment filed April 10, 2008, it is respectfully submitted that the present amendments are timely.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants have made the necessary showing under 37 CFR 1.116; and that, accordingly, entry of the present amendments is clearly proper.

The rejection of claims on prior art grounds, set forth on pages 2-8 of the Office Action mailed July 25, 2008, is noted. Also noted is the indication by the Examiner that the subject matter of claims 2, 3, 11, 18 and 23 would be allowable if set forth in independent form; thus, the Examiner has indicated that subject matter of each of claims 2, 3, 11, 18 and 23 is allowable over the teachings of the prior art applied by the Examiner in this Office Action mailed July 25, 2008. As the subject matter of claims 2 and 11 has been incorporated respectively into claims 1 and 10, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art rejections of claims 1 and 10, as well as all claims dependent thereon, have been overcome. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter claimed in claims 1 and 10, as well as claims dependent thereon, patentably distinguish over the teachings of the references applied by the Examiner in rejecting claims 1 and 10 in the Office Action mailed July 25, 2008, at least for the reasons that the Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of claims 2 and 11 patentably distinguish over the teachings of references applied in rejecting claims 1 and 10, respectively.

In addition, as claims 18 and 23 are set forth in independent form, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claims 18 and 23 should clearly be allowed.

In view of the present claim amendments, whereby each of the claims recites subject matter indicated by the Examiner to patentably distinguish over the applied

references, the prior art rejections in the Office Action mailed July 25, 2008, have clearly been overcome; and, for purposes of conciseness, no further discussion of the applied references is made herein.

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, entry of the present amendments, and reconsideration and allowance of all claims remaining in the above-identified application, are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including any extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (case No. 500.45682X00), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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